

Arundo donax

Giant reed

Introduction

The genus *Arundo* contains 5 species occurring in tropical and subtropical regions. Two species are recorded from China^[122].

Species of *Arundo* in China

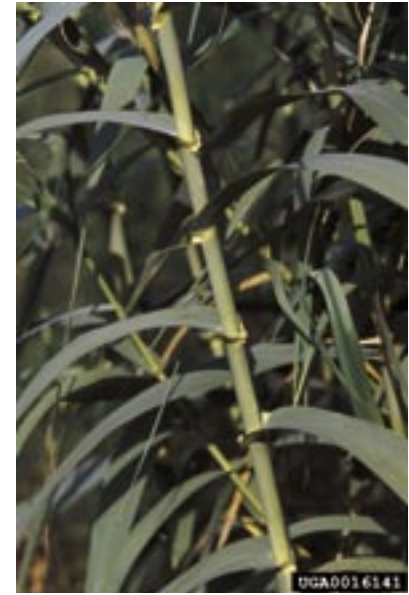
Scientific Name
<i>Arundo donax</i> L.
<i>A. formosana</i> Hack

Taxonomy

- Order:** Graminales
- Suborder:** Gramineae
- Family:** Gramineae (Poaceae)
- Subfamily:** Arundioideae
- Tribe:** Arundineae
- Subtribe:** Arundinae Bews
- Genus:** *Arundo* L.
- Species:** *Arundo donax* L.

Description

Arundo donax is an erect, perennial grass that can grow to a height of 3-6 m. The culms reach a diameter of 1-4 cm, are hollow, with walls 2 to 7 mm thick and divided by partitions at the nodes. The nodes vary in length from 12-30 cm. The leaf sheath is glabrous and longer than the internode. Leaves are conspicuously 2-ranked, 30-50 cm long and 5-8 cm broad at the base and tapering to a fine point. Leaf bases are cordate and persistent. The large plume-like panicles are erect, 30-60 cm long. The spikelet, composed of



2-4 florets, is 10-12 mm in length. Glumes are lanceolate, nearly identical in size, and 3-5 veined, the lower lemma is 8-10 mm long, and about 4-5 mm for the upper. The flowers and fruits appear from September to December^[58, 84, 87, 122].

Habitat

A. donax prefers sandy soil along riverbanks and roadsides^[122].

Distribution

A. donax occurs in Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Yunnan, and Zhejiang provinces^[58, 122] and it is cultivated in Henan, Hubei and Shandong provinces^[9, 30, 53].

Economic Importance

The culm of *A. donax* is sometimes used for making reeds for musical wind instruments. Because of its

high fibrin content, *A. donax* is used for paper making and artificial silk. Historically the entire plant was used as building material for rural cottages. It is also used for animal forage^[58, 122].

Related Species

A. donax var. *coleotricha* Hack, native to Taiwan, can be distinguished from *A. donax* by the densely hairy leaf sheath. *A. donax* var. *versicolor* Stokes, has graceful stripes on the leaves. The much shorter *A. formosana*, with a height of 60-120 cm, is also reported from Taiwan^[58, 77, 122].

Natural Enemies of *Arundo*

Five fungi and one arthropod have been recorded in association with plants of the genus *Arundo*.

Fungi

Phylum	Family	Species	H. R.	Ref.
Ascomycota	Meliolaceae	<i>Meliola arundinis</i> Pat.	p	[73]
			po	[26]
	Phyllachoraceae	<i>Phyllachora arundinis</i> Sawada	mo	[26]
Basidiomycota	Pucciniaceae	<i>Puccinia arundinis-donacis</i> T. Hirats.	m	[170]
Anamorphic <i>Splanchnonema</i>		<i>Helminthosporium arundinis</i> Sawada	mo	[26]
Anamorphic Uredinales		<i>Uredo arundinis-donacis</i> F.L. Tai	m	[26]

Arthropods

Order	Family	Species	H. R.	Ref.
Lepidoptera	Noctuidae	<i>Simyra albovenosa</i> (Goeze)	p	[15]

Recorded as *Arsilonche albovenosa* (Goeze)

